## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALCUT 01636 120453Z

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**ACTION NEA-09** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 SSO-00 /017 W

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O 120413Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4078

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 1636

E.O. 11652: N/W

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, US SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

**REF: STATE 174598** 

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF SECTION 14 OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, 1923 CITED BY JUDGE CHAUDHURI IN HIS RULING (FOR TEXT OF RULING SEE CALCUTTA 1617): QUOTE: IN ADDITION AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY POWERS WHICH A COURT MAY POSSESS TO ORDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM ANY PROCEEDINGS IF, IN THE COURSE OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A COURT AGAINST ANY PERSON FOR AN OFFENSE UNDER THIS ACT OR THE PROCEEDINGS ON APEAL, OR IN THE COURSE OF THE TRIAL OF A PERSON UNDER THIS ACT, APPLICATION IS MADE BY THE PROSECUTION, ON THE GROUND THAT THE PUBLICATION OF ANY EVIDENCE TO BE GIVEN OR OF ANY STATEMENT TO BE MADE IN THE COURSE OF THE PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE SAFETY OF THE STATE, THAT ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE PUBLIC SHALL BE EXCLUDED DURING ANY PART OF THE HEARING, THE COURT MAY MAKE AN ORDER TO THAT EFFECT, BUT THE PASSING OF SENTENCE SHALL IN ANY CASE TAKE PLACE IN PUBLIC. END QUOTE.

2. IN INDIAN USAGE, THE FRAMING OF THE CHARGES IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIAL. HOWEVER, IT IS UP TO THE PRESIDING JUDGE TO DETERMINE WHEN HE WILL BEGIN TO HEAR EVIDENCE AFTER THE FRAMING OF THE CHARGES. THIS MEANS THAT WE ARE UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO PREDICT ANY TIME FRAME FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CALCUT 01636 120453Z

TRIAL.

BALL		
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NNN

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: LAW, COURTS, TRIALS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 12 AUG 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAL CUT01636

Document Number: 1974CALCUT01636 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D740220-0164 From: CALCUTTA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740856/aaaabway.tel

Line Count: 62

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: STATE 174598

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: CollinP0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16 AUG 2002

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>

**Review Markings:** 

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: HARCOS/FLETCHER

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, US, (HARCOS), (FLETCHER)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005